



## DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY SERVICES

*Community Services Administration*

City of New Haven  
165 Church Street  
New Haven, CT 06510



**Tony N. Harp**  
Mayor

**Migdalia Castro**  
Director

### SB-6464 - Proposed Bill for an Act Assisting Mobility-Challenged Senior Citizens

Dear Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and members of the Human Services,

This proposed Bill requires the Department of Rehabilitation Services, in consultation with the Department on Aging, to provide scooters or other assistive devices to mobility-challenged senior citizens who lack sufficient funds to purchase such equipment themselves.

Passing of this Bill will:

1. Provide seniors who are disabled and do not have transportation with the opportunity to be appropriately transported to access healthcare services and other necessity to be healthy.
2. Appropriately transport seniors who are disabled and cannot afford needed transportation to access necessary employment and to perform their daily routine activities.
3. Provide appropriate transportation services to seniors who lack sufficient funds to purchase such equipped transportation they need, due to their disability, to participate in social activities aimed at improving their functionality and wellness while reducing their social isolation.

#### ***Why do we need this Bill?***

We know that in 2000, we have 112,442 people that were disabled in the State of Connecticut. Out of this total number, 31,655 are under 20 years old; 68,911 are under 64 years old (and 68% of this sub-population were unemployed); and 11,876 are persons over 65 years old. Currently, there are 21,902 persons aged 55 years and older in the city of New Haven. This Bill will enable those who wanted to work and can be meaningfully employed to be transported to places of employment.

#### ***What is the Cost of providing the transportation to assist mobility-challenged Senior citizens?***

- The cost of 8 passenger van is \$45,000 (7 ambulatory/1 wheelchair); and the cost of 14 passenger van is \$63,314.00 (12 ambulatory/2 wheelchair).
- The annual cost for a driver for the van is \$49,581.72 includes benefits.
- The total number estimated to be served:
  - per day = 12 – 15;
  - per month - 252 – 315
  - per year - 3,024 - 3,780

[<http://www.matthewsbuses.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/goshen-gcii-paratransit.jpg>]

- How much is your annual maintenance cost:
  - The estimated cost of labor per annum is \$195.00/month x 12 = \$2,340/year; and
  - The estimated cost of parts per annum is \$290.60/month x 12 = \$3,487.20/year.
- Estimated cost of Fuel per annual - Depending on mileage driven per day, an average cost per year for the 14 passenger is \$15,986 based on 20 gallons per day x \$3.00 per gallon.

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